AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1(Original). A compound 8 to 80 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with said nucleic acid molecule encoding extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6 and inhibits the expression of extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6.

2(Currently Amended). The compound according to claim 1, wherein said extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6 is human extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6 SEQ ID NO: 4, and wherein said compound specifically hybridizes to a sequence of at least 8 consecutive nucleotides within nucleotides 197 to ~~1631~~ 216 of SEQ ID NO: 4 and inhibits expression of said extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6.

3(Original). The compound according to claim 2, wherein said expression is inhibited by at least 40% as measured by a suitable assay.

Claims 4-15(Canceled).

16(Currently Amended). The compound according to claim 1, which is an antisense oligonucleotide or chimeric oligonucleotide.

17(Currently Amended). The compound according to claim 16, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises a modification selected from the group consisting of at least one modified internucleoside linkage, at least one modified sugar moiety, and at least one modified nucleobase.

18(Original). The compound according to claim 17, wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

Claim 19(Canceled).

20(Currently Amended). The compound according to claim ~~19~~ 17, wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

Claim 21(Canceled).

22(Currently Amended). The compound according to claim ~~21~~ 17, wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

Claim 23(Canceled).

24(Original). A composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

25(Original). The composition according to claim 24, further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

Claim 26(Canceled).

27(Original). A method of inhibiting the expression of extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6 in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6 is inhibited.

28(Original). A method of treating an animal having a disease or condition associated with extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6 comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 so that expression of extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6 is inhibited.

29(Currently Amended). The method according to claim 28, wherein the disease or condition is selected from the group consisting of a hyperproliferative disorder, an inflammatory disorder, and a neurodegenerative disorder.

30(Original). The method according to claim 29, wherein the hyperproliferative disorder is cancer.

Claims 31-32(Canceled).

33(Currently Amended). The method according to claim ~~32~~ 29, wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is Alzheimer's disease.

34(Original). A method for inhibiting angiogenesis in a mammal, the method comprising administering to a mammalian tissue a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 in or near said tissue, whereby angiogenesis is inhibited.

35(Currently Amended). The method according to claim 34, wherein the inhibitor prevents degradation of extracellular matrix for new blood vessel formation or prevents tubular formation of blood vessels.

36-37(Canceled).

38(Original). The method according to claim 34, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of a ribozyme, an siRNA, an antisense oligonucleotide, a peptide nucleic acid, a morpholino compound and a locked nucleic acid.

Claim 39(Canceled).

40(Original). The method according to claim 34, wherein the administration is selected from the group consisting of topical, intratracheal, intranasal, epidermal, transdermal, oral, parenteral, intravenous, intraarterial, subcutaneous, intraperitoneal or intramuscular, intracranial, intrathecal, and intraventricular.

41(Original). The method according to claim 34, wherein at least one additional drug is administered in combination with said compound.

42(Original). A method for preventing degradation of an extracellular matrix of mammalian tissue, the method comprising the step of inhibiting extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6 expression in a cell of said tissue, thereby inhibiting the degradation of the extracellular matrix.

43(Original). A method of inhibiting angiogenesis in a mammalian tissue comprising inhibiting migration of endothelial cells through the extracellular matrix by contacting said cells with a compound of claim 1.

44(Original). A method of reducing the growth of new blood vessels supplying a tumor in mammalian tissue comprising contacting said tissue with a compound of claim 1.

45(Original). A method for preventing tubular formation of blood vessels, the method comprising the step of inhibiting a extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6 in a cell, thereby inhibiting the formation of blood vessels.

46(Original). A method for treating an angiogenic disease in a mammal, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

47(Currently Amended). A method of inhibiting blood vessel formation in mammalian tissue by reducing expression of integrin β mRNA in cells of said tissue.

48(Original). The method according to claim 47, comprising contacting said cells with an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

49(Currently Amended). A duplexed antisense compound comprising:

(a) a nucleobase sequence 8 to 80 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6 with at least one natural or modified nucleobase forming an overhang at a terminus of said sequence; and

(b) the complementary sequence of said sequence (a) having optionally at least one natural or modified nucleobase forming an overhang at a terminus of said complementary sequence;

wherein said sequences (a) and (b), when hybridized, have at least one single-stranded overhang ~~at~~ at least one of terminus of said hybridized duplex, and wherein said duplex when interacted with a nucleic acid molecule encoding extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6 can modulate the expression of said extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6.

Claims 50-65(Canceled).

66(New). The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes to a sequence of said extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6 within at least 8 to 80 nucleobases extending 5′ of nucleobase 369 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

67(New). The compound according to claim 1, wherein said sequence is at least 20 nucleobases in length.

68(New). The compound according to claim 66, wherein said expression is inhibited by at least 40% as measured by a suitable assay.

69(New). The compound according to claim 66, wherein said sequence comprises nucleobases 369-388.

70(New). The compound according to claim 66, wherein said sequence comprises nucleobases 380-399.

71(New). The compound according to claim 66, wherein said sequence comprises nucleobases 394-413.

72(New). The compound according to claim 66, wherein said sequence comprises nucleobases 410-429.

73(New). The compound according to claim 66, wherein said sequence comprises nucleobases 419-438.

74(New). The compound according to claim 66, wherein said sequence comprises nucleobases 427-446.

75(New). The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes to a sequence of said extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6 within at least 8 to 80 nucleobases extending 5′ of nucleobase 769 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

76(New). The compound according to claim 75, wherein said sequence comprises nucleobases 769-788.

77(New). The compound according to claim 75, wherein said sequence comprises nucleobases 798-817.

78(New). The compound according to claim 75, wherein said sequence comprises nucleobases 807-826.

79(New). The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes to a 5′ untranslated sequence of said extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

80(New). The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes to a coding region sequence of said extracellular-signal-regulated kinase-6 of SEQ ID NO: 4, selected from among the sequences of Table 1.